

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

July 2, 2015

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Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

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St. Louis

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Senior Managers Approve Record Number of Employee Best Practices

by Jim Dickson



Temporary mailboxes, submitted by the Northeast District, is one of the 46 best practices being shared across the state.

Thanks to a good showing by districts and divisions at the Innovations Showcase in April, MoDOT's Senior Management Team recently approved a record number of best practices. A total of 46 best practices have been added to the online database, which eclipses the previous high-water mark of 28 set in 2014. What's more, for the third year in a row, every district and the Central Office had at least one best practice approved. The hotbeds for innovation during the past year were the Central Office claiming a total of 10 best practices, the Southwest District with nine and the St. Louis District with seven best practices.

All 57 showcase innovations were evaluated by district and division experts and submitted for consideration by the Senior Management Team. Three showcase innovations are being evaluated further.

Here's a breakdown of all 46 best practices approved so far this year:

2015 Approved Best Practices

Adjustable Guardrail (Southwest District)	Pull Paver Shaker (Southwest District)
Aggregate and Concrete Tracker (Kansas City District)	Reflective Advance Warning Flags (St. Louis District)
Automated Horizontal Curve Inventory (Central Office)	Request for Environmental Services (Central Office)
Back2Basics Videos (Central Office)	Road Closed Flip Sign (Southeast District)
CMP Clamp (Southwest District)	SAMII PE Number Request Application (Central Office)
Crash Trend Spreadsheet (Northwest District)	Scratch and Chip (Northwest District)
Electronic Bidding and Contracting (Central Office)	SharePoint CUF Forms (Southwest District)
Follow-Up Form (Northwest District)	Sign Base Cleaner (Kansas City District)
Gear Box Shaft Bit Attachment (Central District)	Sign Post Driver (St. Louis District)
GPS Roadside Obstacle Marker (Southeast District)	Snow Personnel Database (St. Louis District)
Hover Trimmer (Central District)	Socket Wrench Attachment (St. Louis District)
Hydraulic Geometric Data Process (Central Office)	State Map GIS Conversion (Central Office)
KC News Network (Kansas City District)	Stow Assist Light (Northeast District)
LED Snow Plow Lights (Northwest)	Striped Roundabout (Central District)
Lighted ATV Whip on Tow Plow (Southwest District)	Striping Bead Filter (Kansas City District)
Live Traffic Data (Central Office)	Striping Database (Central District)
Material Loader (Southeast District)	Tailgate Chipper (Southwest District)
MCS Safety Audit Process (Central Office)	Temporary Mailboxes (Northeast District)
Median Barrier Wall Modification (Northeast District)	Tie Rod Savers (Central District)
Multi-Use Snow Removal Truck (Southeast District)	Tow Plow Camera (Southwest District)
One-Time Bridge Delineator (Southwest District)	Tow Plow Sign (St. Louis District)
Paperless Bridge Memo (Central Office)	Weathering Steel Washers (St. Louis District)
Project Tracking Master (Southwest District)	Wing Plow Strobes (St. Louis District)

You can see photos and plans for all MoDOT best practices online at the [Innovations Challenge SharePoint Page](#).

This year's challenge doesn't officially start until August 1, but employees can submit innovations anytime. If you've found a way to do your work better, faster or cheaper, take a minute to complete the Innovations Challenge submission form on the [Innovations Challenge SharePoint Page](#).

Commission Summary Highlights

by Bob Brendel

Three local presentations before the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting yesterday in Clinton advocated for system improvement projects that are not possible given the insufficient transportation funding situation that currently exists. The Commission acknowledged, however, that each of the proposed projects has merit.

Henry County Commissioner Daniel Doll spoke of the safety benefits that would come with the four-laning of Route 13. He recognized that expanding the state highway system is unrealistic at a time when MoDOT is struggling to find the resources to maintain what it already has. "We commend MoDOT in their efforts to maintain the system as best they can with what little they have," he said. "You have to have your priorities."



Craig Thompson, chief operating officer of Golden Valley Memorial Healthcare, addresses the Commission on the need for access improvements.

He said the Missouri Highway 13 Corridor Coalition fully supports an increase in sales tax or gas tax or any other revenue stream that would help get improvements made.

Craig Thompson, chief operating officer of Golden Valley Memorial Healthcare in Clinton, described the need for access improvements at the intersection of Routes 7 and 13 that would improve emergency response times. Commission Chairman Stephen R. Miller thanked Thompson for his community involvement and said, "This is the type of project that would be a prime candidate for a cost-share, if that program wasn't currently suspended because of our insufficient funding."

Warsaw City Administrator Randy Pogue spoke on behalf of the Missouri U.S. Highway 65 Coalition and the Warsaw Livable Community Transportation Project. He said, "We need to continue to work together, all of us – regardless of which line we represent on the map – to come to a solution for the

good of all Missourians. We must do a better job of educating the public on why these safety improvements are needed, what funding options are available to us, which funding options aren't why this is, and what we're missing out on because of the funding situation."

In his closing remarks, Chairman Miller echoed the same sentiment, saying "The power of common people continues to push to make things safer and better. We need to continue to educate on investing in ourselves and our future. We have to stop looking for an immediate or short-term 'best fit' and look at what's best in the long-term, and this starts at the grassroots level." He thanked the three presenters for "your willingness to step forward and inspiring us to continue to work on behalf of Missouri."

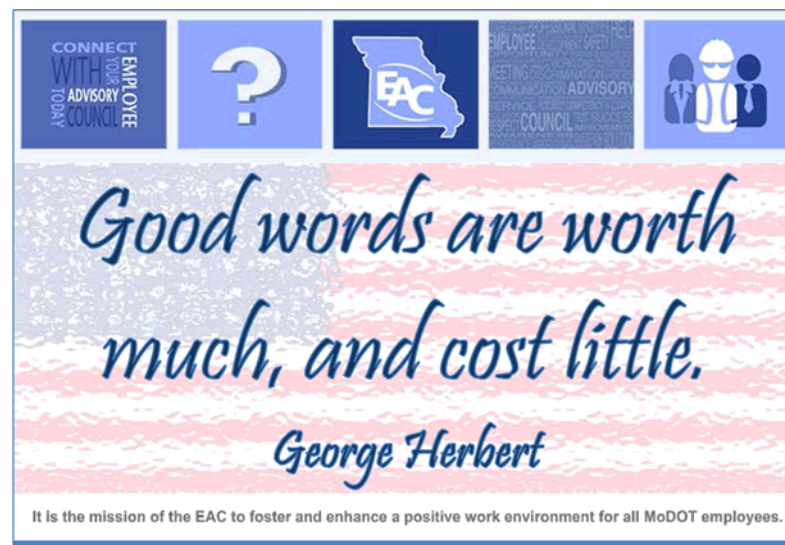
OTHER ITEMS

Director's Report – Interim Director Roberta Broeker introduced Becky Allmeroth as MoDOT's new state maintenance engineer and gave the Commission an update on the Road to Tomorrow initiative. She said more than 100 suggestions have come in and that nearly a third of those are being more closely analyzed by the Road to Tomorrow team.

She also shared a safety story about a Father's Day traffic accident in Columbia that injured two University of Missouri athletes. Neither was wearing a seat belt. The driver, a football player, was seriously injured. "I find it ironic," she said, "that athletes who wear all sorts of protective equipment before going on the field don't approach driving the same way. A safety belt is just as important as a football helmet."

Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger gave an update on the flooding that has affected 89 of the state's 114 counties since May 15. "Our maintenance forces have given a great effort," he said, but noted that when they are on flood duty they aren't able to do other things "which comes with a cost." He estimated that damage estimates have probably doubled or tripled in the past week with the latest round of storms.

Consideration of Bids for Transportation Improvements – State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter reported to the Commission the results of the June 26 bid opening. MoDOT received 31 bids on 10 calls. One bridge-painting project received no bids and will be repackaged in a future letting. The Commission awarded all to the low bidder. Schroeter said the June letting represented \$6.9 million in work – the smallest letting in recent memory, and that, because of a shortage of jobs, there won't be a July letting.



Introducing MoDOT U

by Kristen Bagwill

We are so excited to announce that your learning management system (LMS) has been upgraded with a brand new and improved system called MoDOT U! MoDOT U replaces the LMS Student Center as your one-stop-shop for all things learning, training and career development. It is an easy-to-use system with enhanced, user-friendly features like videos and new, interactive online

training classes that were carefully chosen and geared toward your needs. MoDOT U can be viewed from any MoDOT computer or even on your smart phone or tablet!

Get started by watching this short intro video – Intro to MoDOT U.

View a "how to" flyer - [How to MoDOT U](#).

Click here to access the system, then save the link to your favorites – MoDOT U.



To celebrate the MoDOT U launch, we're focusing on you and our MoDOT priorities of outstanding customer service and safety. There are many great online classes that you can find using the catalog or search tabs within MoDOT U. For example:

- Getting Started with Excel 2010 (1 hour) - Many of us use Excel daily. If you need some help getting started, this class is for you.
- The Dangers of Multitasking (12 minutes) – How many times do you get interrupted while trying to complete a task at work? This short class will give you pointers for prioritizing work and focusing on the task at hand.
- Back Safety and Injury Prevention (30 minutes) – Keep yourself safe and your back healthy by using good lifting practices, posture and other safe back practices.
- Customer Service Processes and Procedures (3 hours) – This longer class goes in-depth into good customer service practices.
- Listening to Improve Conversation (6 minutes) – Who doesn't have 6 minutes to learn how to better listen to coworkers and improve relationships through meaningful conversations?

There is a wide range of online courses available to fit any schedule and to help you build your skills.

Questions? Contact us and we'll be happy to help you get started - Kristen.Bagwill@modot.mo.gov or Amanda.Wood@modot.mo.gov.

State Transportation Program Focuses on Taking Care of Roads and Bridges

by Bob Brendel

Missouri's ability to invest in its roads and bridges continues to shrink, and that means fewer projects to keep them in good condition.



Yesterday, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) – its five-year list of projects that are planned by state and regional agencies. The draft STIP was released in May for public review and comment.

commitment MoDOT has made to projects that focus on primary routes and taking care of the existing highway system," said MoDOT Interim Director Roberta Broeker.

The total number of projects in this STIP's five-year highway and bridge construction schedule is 577. That's a decrease of 246 projects from last year's final STIP. The 2016-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program lists transportation projects planned by state and regional planning agencies for fiscal years 2016 through 2020 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020).

Secure Alternatives to Dropbox

by Patrick Wood

Needing to share files with external partners or access files outside the office? Based on your need, requirements and frequency of sharing, Information Systems has the perfect method of collaboration for you. While file sharing sites such as Dropbox and Box.com seem like an easy-to-use and popular choice, they are unauthorized sites that are currently blocked by the Office of Administration and not recommended by MoDOT. File sharing sites such as this can cause problems for MoDOT.

Just last year, Box and Dropbox fell victim to security breaches that allowed privately shared files to be read due to poor security practices and poor design choices in browsers. Employees can aid in keeping department data secure by using IS approved options for sharing data.



Based on the Human Resource Policy for communication and information systems, all users must safeguard department information which could be subject to disclosure by the Missouri Open Records Act, also known as the Sunshine Law. The history and documents of shared data on sites such as Dropbox and Box.com are not readily accessible by MoDOT, causing issues when it comes to the potential requisition of information by a sunshine request. These sites also violate HR policy by not fully allowing Information Systems to properly investigate fraud, waste and abuse within the department.

However, there are great ways to share documents that are MoDOT compliant. Email is the perfect way to distribute files to external partners on a one-

time-only basis. If an on-going collaboration of a document is necessary or if the document is larger than 100mg, a different approved method is required.

File Transfer Protocol sites are perfect for when MoDOT files need to be made available for a limited time to external partners. There are no file size restrictions on this method, and these sites can be set to automatically delete the files after 30 days, allowing for increased measures to ensure MoDOT documents are properly safeguarded.

External SharePoint sites are the best choice if ongoing collaboration with external partners is expected. This method is restricted by file size, and files over two gigabytes cannot be stored. Using external SharePoint sites requires a login for external partners to contribute and can be set to only allow external partners to see information pertinent to them. This helps ensure the safety of MoDOT documents.

The final approved method of file sharing is the use of Secure Content Locker from AirWatch. Secure Content Locker can be used to collaborate with external partners, allowing them to download, edit and upload documents to the site. Content Locker allows MoDOT users to set permissions and have more control over the data and access given to the external partner. It is also designed for use with mobile devices, and the data stored is encrypted for added security.

For more information on compliant methods of file sharing, contact the IS Help Desk at HelpDesk@modot.mo.gov.

Take Advantage of Your Benefits 2015 MoDOT & MSHP Wellness Incentive Program

By Robin Gammon, Health Education Coordinator, Coventry Health Care

Did you know that MoDOT and the Missouri State Highway Patrol medical plan covers 100 percent of your routine screenings and preventive services? Employees are encouraged to take advantage of this. We've also chosen a wellness incentive program for active employees who have our medical insurance.



What is the wellness incentive program?

If you have an office visit or service processed as "preventive care" in 2015, you will have a chance to win a \$50 prepaid gift card, and a select number of winners will receive a \$100 gift card! We recently gave out our first round of cards, but it's not too late. We will give away cards two more times before the end of the year.

How do I become eligible for a gift card?

All you need to do is get your preventive checkup or screening and we'll do the rest. We will contact winners via email or over the phone.

Ready to get started? Contact your physician's office to schedule a preventive screening or checkup. If you need help finding a physician in your network, follow these steps:

- Go to our website at www.modot-mshp-cvty.com.
- Click on "Locate a Provider" at the top of the page or the button in the center.
- Scroll down and click on "Enter Provider Search."
- Enter ZIP code or search by name, facility, specialty or condition (narrow your search by distance, type of provider or specialty).

For complete rules, click here - [Wellness Incentive Program](#).



Stay Connected - MoDOT and MSHP Total Wellness Facebook Page

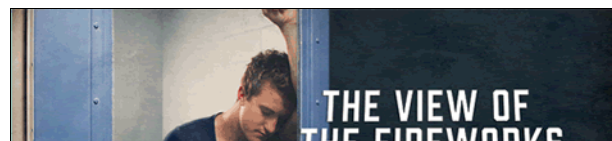
MoDOT and MSHP Total Wellness created a new Facebook page. On this page, you will find recipes, videos, events and articles to help you improve your health and well being.

Like us on Facebook by searching MoDOT and MSHP Total Wellness or follow this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/modotmshtotalwellness>

Don't Lose Your Independence This Holiday Law Enforcement Seeking Impaired Drivers Over Independence Day Holiday

by Kelly Jackson

If you're thinking about driving impaired this week, the red, white and blue flashing lights of your Independence Day holiday may be those of a patrol car - and the view of the fireworks is not so good from a local jail cell.



The Fourth of July is one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to substance-impaired driving crashes. Local law enforcement will be out in full force July 3-5 seeking impaired drivers through increased sobriety checkpoints, roving and



saturation patrols and other enforcement methods. There are no warnings and no excuses. If you drive impaired, you will be arrested. Don't risk losing your independence by choosing to drink and drive.

"One fatality on our highways is too many, and there is no excuse for driving while

you are impaired," said Colonel J. Bret Johnson, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. "Over the 2014 July holiday, troopers arrested 155 people who made the decision to drink and drive and put others at risk. If you're going to include alcohol in your holiday plans, choose a sober designated driver."

Often, people have a hard time recuperating financially from the cost of an arrest or the crash itself. Violators risk killing or harming others, face jail time, the loss of their driver licenses, higher insurance rates and dozens of other unanticipated expenses from attorney fees, fines and court costs, car towing and repairs and lost time at work.

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety recommends these simple tips to avoid a drunk-driving disaster:

- Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to call local law enforcement.
- Always wear your seat belt. It's your best defense in any traffic crash.

For more information, visit <http://www.savemolives.com/> or Facebook and Twitter at Save MO Lives.



What's Happening



Happy Fourth of July!

Since 1938, Independence Day, commonly referred to as the Fourth of July, has been an official paid holiday for government officials. This gives Independence Day a special place on the calendar of the United States, as there are only a limited number of paid holidays on the calendar. It is likely that this day will never disappear from the American calendar.

Today, the holiday is celebrated with parades, barbecues, concerts and of course fireworks displays. It's also a time that we thank the men and women currently serving in the military and those who have served to protect our freedoms and our country.

Whatever your activities, remember to be safe. Check out the fireworks safety tips on the Central Office page of Connections provided by Coventry, and have a great holiday!



More Discounts for State Employees

The Office of Administration has more offers and discounts for state employees, including a discounted hotel stay at the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis for select dates, Six Flags, Silver Dollar City and Oceans of Fun discounts and many other discounts to fun family attractions around the state.

[Click here for all the details – Discounts.](#)



EAC Minutes Available

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's May meeting have been posted on the EAC SharePoint site. You can access them by using this link - [May 2015 EAC minutes.pdf](#).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



MoDOT's Declining Revenue

When the budget drops to \$325 million in 2017, it will be the **lowest construction budget for MoDOT since 1992.**

Meet MoDOT

An updated version of "Meet MoDOT" has been posted to the website. You can view the new version here - [Meet MoDOT](#).

July Service Anniversaries

30 Years

Larry F. Rohr - SL
David L. Prock - SE
Edward Lynn Cole - SE
Jeffery R. Campbell - CO
Donna A. Wilbers - CO

25 Years

Jeffrey S. King - NW
Teresa Ann Krenning - SL
Gregory Mezinis - SL
John Anthony Avers - SW
Joseph Franklin Crader - SE

20 Years

Bryan S. Bailey - NW
John Kyle Dinsmore - NW
Tanya Marie Carlisle - NE
John David Ortner - KC
Brent David Humphrey - CD
Ronald H. Mize - SL
Danny Gene Shoemaker - SW
Randy J. Ballew - SE
Deborah K. Jaegers - CO
Douglas John Hood - CO

15 Years

Craig A. Elmore - NW
Robert Alan Kish - NW
Quentin G. Holcomb - NW
David A. Campbell - NW
Scott Dee Stephens - NW
Nicole Ilene Smith - NW
David Ray Yarnell - NW
Anthony E. Forrest - NE
Andrew K. Long - NE
James Richard Davis - NE
Clinton D. Ford - NE
Marion D. Thurman - NE
David Lee Warmouth - KC
Robert Lee Merritt - CD
Keith M. Harangozo - SL
Marshall Dean Miller - SW
Rebecca S. Walsh - SW
William C. Reidlinger - SW
Blaine M. Doss - SW
Brian Edward Proctor - SW
Mark L. Clark - SE
Clint A. Younger - SE
Norman L. Clark - SE
Jody Lynn Mills - SE

10 Years

Jeffrey R. Pycke - KC
Brenda Kay Williams - KC
Jason Daniel Pemberton - CD
Randall Wayne Vandelight - CD
Terry Joseph Keehn - SL
Paula B. Fuhro - SL
Lee Q. Williams - SL
Joseph David Pinson - SL
Clint D. Eidson - SW
William D. Thorp - SW
Sandra Jean Vincent - SW
Charles Eric Wilson - SE
Sheryl A. Wunderlich - SE
Michael D. Libby - SE
Ricky Lee Crabb - SE
Earl Eugene Swift - SE
Zachary Quinn Honse - CO
Stewart C. Strong - CO

5 Years

Tommy L. McKenzie - SL
Keith Alfred Wright - SL
Gregory P. Hatch - SL
Jeffrey M. Besaw - SW

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Communications - MoDOT
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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

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Central
Office

Volunteers Needed for Missouri State Fair

by Patrick Wood

It's time to recruit volunteers to work at the MoDOT Highway Gardens building at the 2015 Missouri State Fair in Sedalia.

We're looking for six Central Office volunteers for Sunday, August 16, eight volunteers for Saturday, August 22 and six volunteers for Sunday, August 23.

The main information booth at the Highway Gardens will be handled by volunteers who will be distributing maps and answering questions. We will also have selfie stations posted both inside and outside the building to encourage visitors to take photos and share their experiences in the Highway Gardens.

The building is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. We will use the same schedule as previous years to allow volunteers time to visit the fair and reduce overtime costs to the department.

8:30 to 8:45 a.m. - Arrive at MoDOT Highway Gardens building in Sedalia
8:45 to 9 a.m. - Orientation for all volunteers on assignments
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Team #1 works displays - Team #2 free time at the fair
1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Team #2 works displays - Team #1 free time at the fair
6 p.m. - Leave Sedalia

Please email Patrick.Wood@modot.mo.gov or call 573-522-3796 if you are interested in volunteering.

For more information on the State Fair and this year's schedule of events, visit <http://www.mostatefair.com/home>.



Coventry July Wellness Newsletter Firework Safety & Men's Health



Most of us have fond Fourth of July memories of fireworks lighting up the warm summer night. To avoid bad memories of burns and other injuries, however, everyone must think about fireworks safety. It is probably not surprising that the Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that most injuries, about 65 percent, occur between June 18 and July 18. And, according to the National Fire Protection Association, in a typical year there are more fires reported on July 4 than any other day, thanks to fireworks.

Practice fireworks safety this holiday using these tips:

- Make sure the fireworks you want to use are legal in your state and local area.
- Do not allow children to play with fireworks, not even sparklers.
- Light legal fireworks in a clear, open area that is away from houses, dry leaves and grass.
- Make sure other people are out of the way.
- Never have any part of your body over a firework when you're lighting it.
- Always keep a bucket of water nearby.
- Do not try to relight or pick up malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them in water and throw them away.
- Follow proper storage instructions printed on fireworks cartons, and do not experiment with homemade fireworks.

Read more about firework safety and how to overcome the top health threats for men in this month's Coventry Wellness newsletter. [July Newsletter](#).

Central Office Happenings



State Employees Blood Drive a Success

A total of 293 units were collected during the state employee's summer blood drive in June. Thanks to state employees' commitments to giving, many hospital patients will receive the gift of life. Each pint of blood has the potential to save three different lives, which means 879 hospital patients will be impacted!

The Red Cross thanks everyone who supported the summer drive and congratulates the Department of Revenue for winning the state employee challenge by recruiting the most donors.

The next state employees blood drive will be held in November. Watch for details.



Compost Happens

By Scott Marion

Tuesday, July 28 – 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Central Office Human Resources Training Room B

601 West Main

Or anywhere via video conference

Composting is a natural decomposition process that breaks down plant and food scraps into a substance that is excellent for enriching the soil, resulting in healthy lawns and gardens of all kinds.

Come join us to speak with our director of Motor Carrier Services and Master Gardener, Scott Marion, about how to start your own compost.

Space is limited for the in-person class at Central Office, so check with your supervisor, then sign up through MoDOT U using the following instructions:

Go to the search tab and search "Compost Happens."

Find MEE Zone: Compost Happens and Click the enroll icon on the far right.

Click enroll in the top right corner of the pop up box.

You will receive an email with a calendar invitation.

For questions or to enroll via video conference, contact Amanda Woody at Amanda.woody@modot.mo.gov or 573-526-5617.



New Sam's Club

Missouri State employees are invited to get a sneak peak of the new Jefferson City Sam's Club on Monday, July 20 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The new store is located at 849 Stoneridge Parkway - [Flier](#).

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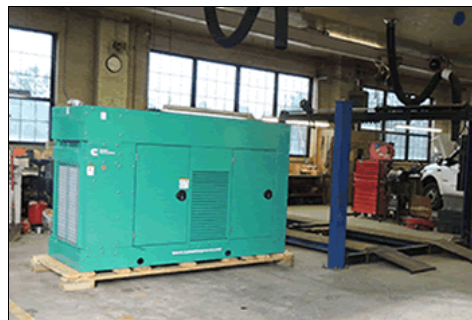
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Power To The People

The Northwest District is in the process of installing a backup generator at the district office complex. For many years, the district used a small generator, allowing the Emergency Operations Center and fuel pumps to continue running during power outages. The smaller generator, however, left the majority of the two office buildings on the district office complex in the dark in emergency situations.



The new, larger generator being installed at the Northwest District Office complex will be able to power both office buildings in the event of a power outage.

For quite a while, Facility Operations Supervisor Matt Sonner has been working on a cost-effective solution that will work for the complex. A new, larger generator is currently being installed near our General Services department. Once the project is complete, if an outage occurs, there may be a brief interruption in power, usually no more than 30 seconds, but then work should be able to resume as normal in both office buildings. The generator has a transfer switch that senses a power loss and automatically turns on the generator.

Sonner and his team have worked to minimize the impact of the new generator installation for district office employees. The contractor has been asked to only turn off power to the district office complex between the hours of 5 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the week or from Friday at 5 p.m. until Monday at 6 a.m. They have not needed to yet, but will notify all district office employees of outages, so work hours may be adjusted if needed.

After the installation of the new generator, Sonner and the Maintenance department will work to find the best place to relocate the old, but still usable, smaller generator. The new generator project is scheduled to be completed by Aug. 11.



Contractors began filling the hole for some of the new underground lines which will connect the generator to the complex.



This view from above gives a better perspective on the size of the hole, which took an entire truckload of gravel to fill.

MoDOT Cares

The phrase "MoDOT Cares" can be seen on digital message boards throughout the state, but it's definitely true of the Northwest District. Not only did employees come through with food and money donations as part of the Annual MoDOT Food Drive, but two blood drives in the district will save many lives in our area as well.

From canned corn to cleaning products, district employees gathered food throughout the month of June as part of the statewide food drive. In addition, district drive organizer and Senior Customer Service Representative Shelly Aebersold received more than \$120 in cash donations. Second Harvest Community Food Bank is able to triple the buying power of that amount, combining it with the food donations, so many families across our region will benefit from our employees' continued generosity.

A blood drive was held on June 30 in the Northwest District Conference Center and staff from the Community Blood Center in St. Joseph were very pleased with the turnout. Each donor received a buy-one-get-one voucher for Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City. A second drive is scheduled for July 8 at the Chillicothe complex. All donors at that drive will

receive two tickets to a Kansas City Royals game. Contact Tammy Meneely at 660-646-3218 if you'd like to participate in the July 8 drive.



Roadside Intermediate Maintenance Worker Scott Witkowski and Outdoor Advertising and Permit Specialist Melissa Schmitz both donated during the blood drive held at the District Office on June 30.



Roadside Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Lytton reads over some of the paperwork provided to all those who donated.



Roadside Maintenance Crew Leader Steve Stratton knows that, in addition to saving lives, one of the best perks of giving is the snacks afterwards!



Several boxes of food and toiletry items as well as cash donations were collected across the district for Second Harvest Community Food Bank.

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Communications Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

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Rain, Rain, Go Away!

Rain has continued to pour throughout northeast Missouri over the last couple of weeks. With all of this rain has come a significant amount of flooding. Not only has the flood water caused damage to roads and bridges, but it has also closed many of the highly traveled roads in northeast Missouri. At one point, 50 roads in the northeast were closed due to high water levels along the roadways. MoDOT's entire Northeast District team spent many hours responding and even had the help of some of other districts!

One of the heavily impacted roads was U.S. Route 61 just north of Troy over the Cuivre River. Every day that Route 61 was closed, 20,000 to 25,000 vehicles were being diverted onto Missouri Route 79 and Missouri Route 47. MO 47 was already carrying 12,000 cars a day. This made MO 47, which is a two lane road, our third highest traveled route just behind Interstate 70 and Route 61 near the St. Charles County line.

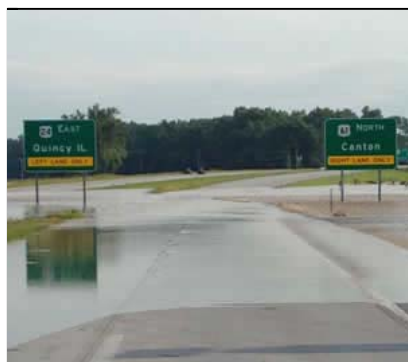
While Route 61 being closed was problematic enough, other issues also arose. As detours were set up in the area to keep traffic moving, the more it rained, the more roads that had to close, including areas of Missouri Route 79. This created problems for MoDOT and motorists because MO 79 was being used as a detour route (as it often is) for Route 61, and its closure made rerouting traffic more difficult.

Following the closure of Route 61 at Troy, U.S. Route 65 north of Palmyra also had to be closed due to an unanticipated levee break. MoDOT quickly managed to reroute drivers to Highway C, Highway 6 as a detour, and across the Illinois state line. But of course, when it rains, it pours; a semi accident occurred on Highway C shortly after it was made to a detour, thus closing that route for some time as well.

Amidst all of this flooding trouble, MoDOT employees have been hard at work answering travelers' questions, providing safe alternate routes, and keeping travelers informed on conditions of the roadways. This was in part done through the use of our phone system, press releases, and especially through social media. The Northeast District's Facebook page gained over 600 new likes in the last couple of weeks alone, and many of the customers we assisted contacted us through Facebook.

MoDOT received many thanks and encouraging words for all of the hard work on behalf of all employees including,

"Thank you for keeping us up to date! Much appreciated!" Another post in regards to the re-opening of U.S. 61 at Taylor stated, "Let's hear it for those that worked to get this done!" This hard work among all of the MoDOT employees has definitely not gone unrecognized, and we should be proud!



More New Summer Faces

Over the summer, there will be new faces around the district. The Northeast District has six interns joining us for the next few months. We wanted to take a moment and feature these individuals over the next few weeks. This week's two featured interns are Brady Bogeart and Andy Killen.



Brady Bogeart

Brady is an intern in the Risk Management department. He is originally from Atlanta, Missouri. He is studying crisis and disaster management/safety management at the University of Central Missouri. This summer he wants to learn how to make the work environment more safe so that no one gets hurt or injured.

In his free time, Brady enjoys hunting, fishing and watching sports.

Andy Killen

Andy is an intern at the Macon Project Office. He is originally from Leonard, Missouri. Andy is studying Civil Engineering at the University of Missouri - Columbia. He hopes that his time at MoDOT will help him learn more about the jobs and responsibilities of a civil engineer.

Andy enjoys all outdoor activities and is a big sports fan.



Around the District...



A dump truck (not ours) pulling a trailer and a backhoe went over the edge of the Salt River Bridge on U.S. Route 61 south of Hannibal, leaving the dump truck suspended and the trailer caught on the guardrail. Thankfully no one was seriously injured. The bridge was shut down to remove the vehicles and the next day while the guardrail was repaired.



Heather Buchanan, an outreach coordinator for the Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety, and Mike Wood (Buckles), from Paris maintenance, spoke to students at Gratz Brown Elementary in Moberly about the importance of wearing your seat belt.



The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety teamed up with Alliance Marketing at Randolph County Raceway on Saturday, June 20 to hand out "tickets" to those wearing their seat belts. Those eligible received a free t-shirt. Helping the coalition were Stacy Corbin and Deanna Wiggins, from the Macon County Health Department, and Marisa Christy-Kerns, in communications. Sgt. Brent Bernhardt was also there with the seat belt convincer.



Macon High School started up a driver's education course this summer after not having offered one for quite some time. The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety was able to help these students out with the cost of the course by offering a scholarship to those that successfully completed the class. Pictured above is the 2015 class, along with their instructor Mr. Clint Coffey.

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Striping Season Highlights a Busy Time of Year for MoDOT

Striping season is well underway across Missouri and in the Kansas City area. MoDOT crews are restriping at least three thousand miles of major highways across the Kansas City area, giving them a fresh, new look.

Restriping happens during late spring, early summer and sometimes into early fall.

Maintenance Crew Leader Marty Lambertson says restriping is a very important element of roadway maintenance and safety.

"It keeps people in their lanes, it shows them where to go, and it marks the exit ramps and everything so people don't run off the roads," said Lambertson.

Striping crews have seen their share of bumps in the road throughout the striping season. Kansas City has seen a lot of rainfall this year and that's hampered the timing of getting striping work done.

Lambertson says, "That's really hurt us a lot this year because we can't paint if the ground's wet of course or if we put it down and washes it off, which causes a big mess."

While striping is underway, motorists should be on the lookout for large, slow-moving striping trucks. These vehicles are traveling at roughly eight to 12 miles per hour.

If motorists aren't careful, they could come up on a striping truck pretty quickly, which could lead to a crash. The best advice, be prepared to slow down and pull around the striping train of vehicles and merge carefully into the open lane.



Click the image to watch Maintenance Crew Leader Marty Lambertson talk about the importance of striping.

APEX Participants Explore Public Transportation

On Thursday July 25, Accelerated Professional Engineering (APEX) program participants Kati Horner, Dustin Hoyt and Trisha Sen along with district planning staff members Susan Barry, Luke Miller and Joni Roeseler participated in a district urban and rural transit experience.

This was a great opportunity for both young engineers and their professional mentors to explore transit from a different perspective --- public transportation.

Read the full [story on Daily DOT](#).



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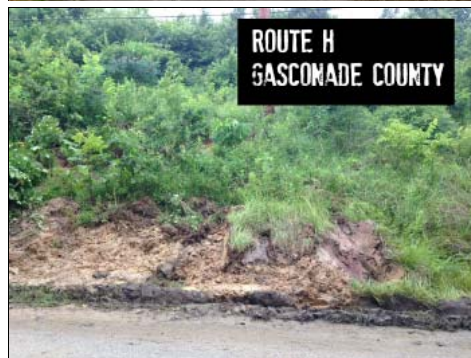
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Central District Crews Battle Flooded Roads, Mudslide

The massive amounts of rain our district has been receiving in the past few weeks has kept our district maintenance crews busy battling flooded roadways and a mudslide. Take a look at a few of the photos of what our men and women in the field have been facing.



Teamwork Helps Pour Concrete at Mokane

The Mokane maintenance facility is getting a new salt tent and employees from General Services, Fulton maintenance and bridge maintenance recently teamed together to pour the concrete for the new tent.





Around the District

District Engineer Dave Silvester is all smiles as he welcomes Central District office staff to the pancake breakfast he cooked for them. Dave and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner have been taking their traveling pancake show on the road and have visited about half of the district's maintenance facilities and project offices. They are working hard to get around to the rest of the facilities.



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Comments & Suggestions

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New Boone Bridge Open

by Jessica Wilson-Hochlan



MoDOT's Boone Bridge team with Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger celebrate the opening of the new bridge.

The new eastbound Interstate 64 Daniel Boone Missouri River Bridge is open. After more than two and a half years of work, the ribbon has been cut and traffic is moving on the new bridge.

MoDOT Assistant to the Resident Engineer Andy Tuerck says "It was really exciting to see all our hard work come together and get this bridge opened. The whole team put a lot of effort into making sure this new bridge is a great ride for all that use it."

The job isn't done yet for the Boone team. The opening of the new bridge means the old eastbound bridge can now be rehabbed and reopened to westbound traffic later this year. The 1930s westbound bridge will be demolished in 2016.

Motorists' Mishap Leads to Gratitude

by Shaunda White

A recent unfortunate highway incident has left a motorist with a positive outlook on sitting in traffic after a crash. Their experience was so impactful, that they wrote a letter of gratitude to Motorist Assist for the support that was provided during the incident.

For more than 20 years, Motorist Assist has built a strong reputation of changing tires and providing gas to stranded motorists on the highways. Some may think these things are primarily all the department does. However, that concept is far from the truth. Amongst changing tires, the Motorist Assist team also does emergency pothole repairs, sign replacements, traffic diversions and assists with incident management on the highways.

In the letter, the motorist explains being involved in a five-car accident and being extremely impressed with how Motorist Assist Operator, Brad Chumbley, handled the whole scene. Chumbley was explained as being efficient, calm, and reassuring during a difficult time.

"I know how frustrating being in an accident on the highway can be. I always make it a practice to talk to the motorists and help them remain calm when I can," said Chumbley.

The letter also highlighted how quickly the highway reopened due to the collaboration of the Highway Patrol and Motorist Assist. Because of this experience, the motorist added that they now have a better perspective and will have a lot more patience when stuck in traffic due to a crash on the highway.

"I am flattered that the motorist took the time to express their appreciation for what we do on the highways. It is great to know that people realize that we do a lot more than just ride around and change tires. Keeping the public safe and the highways open will always be our top priorities," said Chumbley.

For more information about MoDOT Motorist Assist, please visit this link:
http://www.modot.org/services/travel/Motorist_Assist.htm



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Southwest District at Work



BRIDGING THE GAP – Contractor crews place another girder for the new bridge over I-44 near Joplin as part of the Crossroads Interchange project. The completion date for the new interchange is Nov. 1, 2015. (Photo/Aaron Rieder)



CLEAN UP – Marshfield Maintenance Workers Clay Delcours (left) and Seth Dudley clean up chunks of asphalt scoured from the bridge deck on Webster County Route A at the James River south of Marshfield during widespread flooding on June 19. (Photo/David Mitchell)



CLOSING THE ROAD – Springfield Intermediate Maintenance Worker Dave Jackson (left) and Springfield Maintenance Worker Tyson Pingel adjust a Road Closed sign on Missouri Route 125 at Greene County Farm Road 138 during flooding on June 19. (Photo/David Mitchell)



RISING WATER – The rising James River threatens to overflow U.S. Route 160/Missouri Route 13 (Campbell Avenue) south of Springfield near the Greene/Christian county line during flooding on June 19. Although the river crest broke a record more than a century old, the water never flowed across the highway and Route 160 remained open. (Photo/David Mitchell)

One Last Look Inside Former D7 Building Before Sale

by David Mitchell

The Southwest District is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of the former District 7 District Office building in Joplin through July 24.

The plan is for a phone auction to be held with the top bidders. If no proper bids are received, the property will be sold through a broker.

The building at the corner of Missouri Route FF (32nd Street) and Duquesne Road was headquarters for the former District 7 in the southwest corner of



the state from 1993 until the Bolder Five Year Direction plan was implemented in 2011.

The Bolder plan reorganized MoDOT into a smaller organization, resulting in a larger Southwest District with the district office in Springfield and a smaller, regional office in Joplin.



The former District 7 District Office building in Joplin is for sale. Sealed bids are being taken until July 24. (Photo/David Mitchell)

The Joplin School District administration occupied the building after the deadly 2011 tornado hit the city. The school district is moving to a new location after school leaders opted not to purchase the building.

On June 24, MoDOT employees were given a chance to see inside the building for a final time before it's sold.

Below are some photos of their tour.



Senior Design Technician Betty Andrews (left), Senior Highway Designer Craig Switzer (second from left), Transportation Project Designer Patrick Whitaker (second from right) and Transportation Project Manager Kristi Bachman share memories of working in the former District 7 Office building in Joplin. (Photo/David Mitchell)



Assistant to the District Engineer Scott Bachman (left) and Certified Appraiser Randy Coffey look over the Joplin Schools logo during a tour of the former district office in Joplin. Between 2011 and May 2015, the Joplin School District occupied the building but opted not to buy it. (Photo/David Mitchell)



Senior Construction Inspector David Drake (right) shows Construction Inspectors Jonathan Castillo (left) and Patrick Tuter what was once the lab in the former district office building in Joplin. (Photo/David Mitchell)



Senior Highway Designer Craig Switzer (left), Transportation Project Designer Kevin Marti (center) and Senior Highway Designer Mark Throener talk about whose desk was in this location during a tour of the former District 7 Office building in Joplin. (Photo/David Mitchell)

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Comments & Suggestions

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Southeast Coalition Releases New PSA

Have You Had 'The Talk' With Your Kids?

While students are enjoying their summer break, the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety is already making plans to target Missouri's future drivers, new drivers and their parents during the next school year.

"Unfortunately, each of us probably knows someone who doesn't wear his or her seat belt," said Southeast Coalition Regional Coordinator Craig Compas. "And we have probably all heard the same excuses about it being uncomfortable, wrinkling their clothes or being unnecessary."

Missouri's seat belt use remains relatively unchanged at 79 percent, which is consistently below the national average of 87 percent.

The Coalition wants every driver to know that traveling even a short distance without a seat belt is a gamble.

"We created a public service announcement to focus specifically on seat belts," he said. "We want teen drivers and occupants to develop a habit of buckling. We hope parents will also serve as role models."

The Coalition decided the best way to motivate teens and their parents is through humor.

"There are already so many rules, hours of homework and various growing pains teens have to go through," said Compas. "After a certain point, individuals tune things out. And wearing your seat belt is about more than just following the rules; it's about living."

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for young people 15 to 20 years old. In 2013, 75 percent of teen vehicle occupants (13-19 years old) killed in a crash were not wearing a seat belt.

Compas hopes that despite the PSA's humorous tone, it will get parents and teens talking about this very serious topic.

The new PSA features a dad giving his daughter and her date a very important talk before they head out. The PSA will be featured during KFVS12's Heartland Football Fridays, as well as available on YouTube and Facebook.

Check out the latest Coalition PSA at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4F2uECrHsEI&feature=youtu.be>.



Click the video above to watch the Southeast Coalition's latest public service announcement.

Kirk Bennett Retires After 27 Years of Service



Tropical Depression Bill Triggers Flooding Across the State



SE District employee, Kirk Bennett, retired after 27 years with MoDOT. Pictured above, Bennett built a replica Frisco train with 1,800 feet of track on his land outside Willow Springs. During his retirement party, he offered rides for all attendees.

On June 18, the Southeast District began feeling the effects of Tropical Depression Bill, much like the rest of Missouri and neighboring states. Minor routes, like Route 177 in Cape Girardeau (pictured above), closed throughout the district. The flooding triggered by Bill meant that many maintenance crews, customer service representatives and others spent their weekend working to keep the traveling public safe! Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication!

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